

# ON Nashville!

Issue 1

December 2000

## Special points of interest:

- Mayor Bill Purcell on Neighborhoods
- Greetings from ON Director
- Disposing of Holiday Trees
- Neighborhood Response Team



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## Mayor Purcell speaks about the Office of Neighborhoods

When I began my campaign for mayor, I met with Nashvillians in their homes and neighborhoods to talk about making this city the best it could be. During these gatherings, large and small, it became clear that the issues facing this city were safe neighborhoods, good schools and a quality of life shared by the people all across our city. Central to these concerns was the way neighborhoods connected with Metro government and the services it provides.

I felt neighborhoods needed a voice in the Mayor's Office. My first

act as mayor was to sign an executive order creating the Office of Neighborhoods that would link neighborhood groups and citizens to Metro government.

I was fortunate to find the right person to lead this new office in Brenda Wynn. She brought the experience and enthusiasm needed to connect with Nashville's neighborhood groups. In the first year of its operation, Brenda has become an outspoken and successful advocate for our neighborhoods. She has helped groups find solutions to their concerns through Metro government.

My hope is that through this office and our efforts Nashville's neighborhoods will become stronger, as will the quality of life of our city. This newsletter will let you know about our efforts and how together we can make Nashville the best that it can be.

## Greetings from ON Director

We are pleased to present this inaugural issue of *ON Nashville*, a quarterly newsletter published by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods. It is our hope that this newsletter will encourage

and support your efforts by providing useful information about issues that affect your neighborhoods.

Though it seems like only yesterday, it's been a little over a year since

Mayor Bill Purcell established the Office of Neighborhoods to give Nashville's neighborhoods "a new connection to their government." Over the past year, I have

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Neighborhood Response Team

A recent audit of 45 Nashville neighborhoods identified nearly 4,000 problems. As a result, Mayor Bill Purcell has asked the city's Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) to coordinate government's response to the audit findings.

The NRT brings together appropriate sectors of local government to coordinate responses to neighborhood needs. The Team also reaches out to Neighborhood groups and associations to ensure continuing dialogue with Metro departments.

The Team is made up of several

Metro departments, including: Codes, Fire, Police, Public Works, Health, Legal, Planning, Metro Beautification, the Historical Commission, MDHA and the Sheriff's Department. The Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods also participates on the Team, serving as convener.

If your neighborhood group/association would like to receive information about having your neighborhood audited, please contact the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods at 862-6000 or visit us on the web at [www.nashville.org/neighborhoods](http://www.nashville.org/neighborhoods).

## Greetings ...

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had the opportunity to meet with many of you to talk about how the Office of Neighborhoods could assist you.

You have shared your ideas about neighborhood livability and other quality of life issues. In response, we convened the Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) to reach out to neighborhood groups/associations and to ensure continuing dialogue among Metro departments (see article on page 3).

We have also brought government to your communities by coordinating Mayor's Night Out meetings in neighborhoods. During

these meetings, citizens can talk directly with the Mayor and department representatives (usually the department head) about issues that affect them.

I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support over the past year. I also encourage you to let us know what you think about this newsletter. Your input is important and makes it possible for us to improve and grow ON Nashville for all our citizens.

Our wish to you and your family is a happy and joyous holiday season. May you be blessed as together we go forward into the new year!

*Brenda Wynn, Director  
Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods*

*"Our wish to you and your family is a happy and joyous holiday season. May you be blessed as together we go forward into the new year!"*

## Oh No!

(Answers to some of your concerns)

***There are dogs running wild in my neighborhood, and I'm afraid they will bite. Does Nashville have a dog catcher?***

The Health Department's division of Animal Control can pick up those dogs, if you will call them at **862-7928**.

***My family and I are preparing an emergency escape plan for our home in case of a fire. How can we find out where the closest fire hall is?***

ON applauds your efforts of preparing yourself, your family and your home. Call the Fire Marshall's Office at **862-5230**.

***I recently redecorated my house and bought new furniture. I have my old furniture and junk appliances in my back yard. How can I throw them away?***

The Department of Public Works can make 2 bulk item pick ups per year. Give them a call at **862-6590**.

***Help! There is an abandoned car in my neighborhood. It is quite an eyesore. How do I get rid of it?***

Abandoned cars can be an eyesore to our neighborhoods. Contact the Codes Department (**862-6590**) or the Police Department (**862-8600**) to have the car picked up.

## ON (ON Neighborhoods)... The Belmont Hillsboro Neighbors

Welcome to the inaugural column of *ON Neighborhoods* where we'll be profiling the successes and history of many Nashville neighborhood associations.

Many of these neighborhood associations have taken ideas and inspiration from the Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors (BHN). Active since 1970, BHN is now the oldest neighborhood organization in Nashville with continuous activity.

Stretching from 12<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Avenues South and from Wedgewood Ave on the north to I-440 on the south, the Belmont-Hillsboro neighborhood includes one of the

most diverse populations in the city in terms of race, ethnicity, income, and age. The area is one of only three urban census tracts in the country to maintain its diversity mixture for three straight censuses.

BHN has been involved from the beginning when the neighborhood has faced challenges like urban renewal, commercial rezoning, lax codes enforcement, and school desegregation. It continues to advocate for its members and in recent years has been involved in studies of the area including one of Hillsboro Village that helped pave the way for the Urban Zoning Over-

lay.

One of the challenges currently facing BHN is the need for thoughtful and neighborhood-sensitive designs in the area, particularly for the Forest Hills Apartments on Hillsboro Pike, and the Harris Tee-ter store at 21st and Blair. Whatever the outcome of these endeavors, Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors remain focused on bringing commercial and residential neighbors to the table to resolve their differences and will continue to be a cornerstone in Nashville's community of neighborhoods.

### ATTENTION ALL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

*Please contact the Office of Neighborhoods when your association elects a new president. Just call us at 862-6000 or fax the information to us at 862-6040.*

*Coming Soon:  
Look for us on the web at  
[www.nashville.org/  
neighborhoods](http://www.nashville.org/neighborhoods)*

## ON (Other Necessities)... Holiday Tree Collection

Wondering what to do with the holiday tree is after Christmas? Solution: Metro Parks will provide sites for the collection and Metro Public Works will provide the chipping service of used trees.

Clear the tree of artificial snow and tinsel and drop it off at one of the following locations between December 26, 2000, and January

16, 2001: Cane Ridge Park, Cedar Hill Park, East Park, Edwin Warner Park, Elmington Park, Hadley Park, Hartman Park, Joelton Community Park, Lobby Community Center, Madison Park, Reservoir Park, Richland Park,

Two Rivers Park, Whitfield Park.

*"Drop off sites for holiday tree collection will be open  
December 26, 2000 through  
January 16, 2001."*

This service is sponsored by Mayor Bill Purcell, Metro Parks, Metro Beautification & Environment Commission, and Metro Public Works and has been a public service for more than 25 years.



Bill Purcell, Mayor

#### MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOODS

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*ON Nashville* is published by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods for citizens of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

## **ON Metro Departments... Spotlight on Public Works**

When it comes to the people business, Metro's Department of Public Works aims to please! Every day the department is working for you as you drive to work, cross a bridge, pull into a paved parking space, and throw your empty coffee cup into a trash can as you head to your office. It doesn't take long to realize what life in Nashville would be like without a Department of Public Works working day and night to help meet the health, safety, and welfare needs of our city.

Over 500 dedicated employees manage and maintain over 2,200 miles of public roadways and right-of-ways; maintain over 750 traffic control signals and signs; oversee over 4,000 off-and-on street parking spaces; maintain over 350 bridges; and collect an average of one million pounds of refuse from more than

120,000 homes.

In addition, Public Works services and maintains a fleet of over 700 trucks, utility vehicles, and heavy pieces of equipment. Comprised of six divisions: Engineering, Equipment, Parking Management, Waste Management, Streets & Roads, and Staff Services, Public Works delivers a vast array of services that undoubtedly contribute to the quality of life that residents of Nashville/Davidson County have come to rely on and expect.

Randall Dunn, Interim Director of Public Works, whose service with Metro exceeds the 20 year mark, finds his job equally rewarding as it is challenging. When asked what he considered to be his biggest challenge, Dunn shared that "it can be somewhat overwhelming to realize you are being held accountable for

over one-half million people daily." Dunn reiterated, "Public Works impacts everyone's quality of life in some capacity daily and that in itself is an awesome responsibility."

Awesome responsibility indeed as maintaining city roads, excessive trash and traffic light failure can alter the course of our daily lives significantly. Dunn encourages citizens to call Public Works at 862-8700 to report problems and share with the department their concerns. "We want to serve the people of Nashville. We want to provide them with quality service," Dunn recapped. Quality service is what Public Works strives to achieve as they head into the streets of Nashville 24/7 resolving some of our city's biggest challenges. A department devoted to keeping us up and running--the Department of Public Works truly works.